



MCANDREWS, HELD & MALLOY
34TH FLOOR
500 WEST MADISON STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60661

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

MAR 14 2005

TELEPHONE: (312) 775-8000

FACSIMILE: (312) 775-8100

FAX COVER LETTER

CONFIDENTIAL

THE ENCLOSED MATERIAL IS INTENDED FOR THE RECIPIENT NAMED BELOW AND, UNLESS OTHERWISE EXPRESSLY INDICATED, IS CONFIDENTIAL AND PRIVILEGED INFORMATION. ANY DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION OR COPYING OF THE ENCLOSED MATERIALS IS PROHIBITED. IF YOU RECEIVE THIS TRANSMISSION IN ERROR, PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY BY TELEPHONE, AT OUR EXPENSE, AND DESTROY THE ENCLOSED MATERIALS. YOUR COOPERATION IS APPRECIATED.

TO:	Examiner: Mark A. Osele
FROM:	William B. Gont, Esq.
DATE:	March 14, 2005
FAX NO.:	(703) 872-9306
CLIENT:	0225
MATTER:	12761US02
	Sender: 8185

Number of Pages This Transmission (Including Cover Page): 15

If you have problems receiving this facsimile transmission, please contact the sender at the above telephone number.

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

#4423 P.002

MAR 14 2005**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the Application of:

James K. Ward, et al

Application No.: 10/675,438

Filed: September 30, 2003

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD
FOR FORMING A BUTT
SPLICE

Examiner: Mark A. Osele

Group Art Unit: 1734

Attorney Docket No.: 12761US02

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (FAX No. (703) 872-9306) on March 14, 2005.**William B. Cont*
Signature**AMENDMENT**Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Examiner Osele:

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed December 14, 2004.

This Amendment is timely because it is being submitted within the three month time period for reply, which expires on March 14, 2005. Please enter and consider the following.